UNITED NATIONS **S**

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S/1999/1103
28 October 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing in connection with the ever more deteriorating security situation of the Serbs and other non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, of which I have written to the Security Council on a number of occasions.

As I informed you in more detail in my letter of 23 October 1999, the situation is worsening dramatically with every passing day. There have been frequent instances of late of Serbian villages being shelled by the terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). On 19 October mortar fire was opened against the Serbian village of Mogila near Vitina and between 15 and 20 grenades hit and damaged three Serbian houses. The village of Kmetovice was also shelled and bombs were planted in Serbian houses and other property in the villages of Grncare and Vrbovac in the Gnjilane area, while three Serbian children were wounded in a landmine explosion in the vicinity of Urosevac and two were killed in the village of Krusa near Prizren.

These ignominious acts of terror, the glaring few in a multitude, provide abundant evidence that, despite the contrary pronouncements of the United Nations civil and security presences, the KLA has not been demilitarized and disarmed and that UNMIK and KFOR continue to countenance ethnic Albanian terrorism and systematic ethnic cleansing of the Serbs and other non-Albanians of Kosovo and Metohija.

In lodging a strong protest on behalf of my Government over the commission of these atrocities, I transmit its expectation that the Security Council will take the most energetic measures to ensure full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), specifically its provision on the demilitarization and disarmament of the terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army, preventing thus the ethnic cleansing of the Serbs and other non-Albanians from this Serbian province.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Security Council

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S/1999/1104
29 October 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 29 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge the strongest protest following the cowardly attack of a large terrorist group of the members of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) on a convoy of Serbian refugees, protected by KFOR, on the road from Orahovac, Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, to Montenegro. The attack took place near Pec on 27 October 1999 on which occasion a dozen civilians, including women, children and the elderly, were wounded and a number of vehicles burned.

In drawing your attention to this outrage, I would like to point out that the large number of terrorists, about 1,500 of them, and the fact that they had evidently been in possession of prior knowledge as to the exact place and time of the passage of the convoy, give a strong indication that once again they were in collusion with the United Nations presences. This all the more so as it was established upon injury check after the attack that four persons who had been under KFOR protection in a building in Pec were missing.

The responsibility for this latest atrocity lies squarely with the United Nations civil and security presences who persist in their refusal to carry out the mandate of ensuring a secure environment for all inhabitants in Kosovo and Metohija entrusted them by Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). The trail of responsibility leads also to the councils of the powers that, in their smug conceit, have taken it upon themselves to ensure security to a part of a sovereign State but have demonstrably failed to do so, as well as to the door of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. His responsibility becomes glaringly apparent against the backdrop of his public statements made only a day before this outrage to the effect that the situation in Kosovo and Metohija was stable and favourable for the Serbs. In addition to being patently inaccurate, such statements give cause to belief that the Special Representative uses KFOR and UNMIK resources contrary to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) which, in turn, results in the deterioration of the security situation of the ever smaller number of Serbs and their expulsion from their ancestral land.

On several occasions the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has brought to the attention of the Security Council and other international bodies and organizations the problem of about 4,000 Serbs, primarily women and children, under siege by KLA terrorists in Orahovac. Regrettably, that problem has not been solved as KFOR continues to turn a blind eye to an act of terror, the obvious aim of which is to cleanse this town of Serbs as well.

The public presence of a large number of armed Albanians in and around Orahovac and the attack on the convoy of Serbian refugees provide ample evidence that the terrorist KLA has not been disarmed. Going through the proceedings of the so-called "demilitarization" was but a publicity stunt, while the true goal has always been and remains the transformation of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army into legal and organized military structures meant to metamorphose, along the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina model of "train and equip", into a real army of ethnic Albanians.

The policy conducted by the United Nations presences in Kosovo and Metohija is bedeviled by double standards. Armed Albanian gangs are given free rein to carry out the most obnoxious outrages; the Serbs remaining in the few scattered enclaves, however, are "disciplined" by ruthless actions of KFOR and the United Nations international police as was the case during the recent removal of their barricades. To rectify this situation, to forestall other atrocities and to prevent the continued violation of the human rights of Serbs, Montenegrins and other non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija, as well as to ensure full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and relevant documents, the Security Council is called upon to exercise its authority and establish responsibility for the worsening security situation in Kosovo and Metohija and take appropriate concrete measures.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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A/54/516
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29 October 1999

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 43 and 116
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Note verbale dated 28 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit herewith the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic on the occasion of the International Day to Close the Khiam Detention Camp in southern Lebanon (see annex).

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations would be grateful if the Secretary-General would have the annexed statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 43 and 116 of the agenda, and of the Security Council.

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General the assurances of his highest consideration.

99-32197 (E) 291099 291099

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ANNEX

[Original: Arabic]

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic on the occasion of the International Day to Close the Khiam Detention Camp, 28 October 1999

The Syrian Arab Republic regards the International Day to Close the Khiam Detention Camp, 28 October, as an important opportunity for all freedom-loving forces in the world to state their position on operations of abduction, torture and arbitrary detention and on the regime of oppression to which the Lebanese combatants are subjected in the camp in question.

The Khiam Detention Camp has become the symbol of the flagrant violation of human rights and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all related international instruments, as well as of the lack of monitoring of the human rights of individuals taken as hostages without being charged or tried, some of whom have been in the camp for more than 15 years.

Israel has not allowed an international mission of inquiry or a human rights organization or even a press agency to enter the camp from the outset, because it wishes to conceal the massive violations of human rights which it perpetrates against detained or abducted persons.

All States, all peace-loving forces and all human rights organizations which place store by the Charter of the United Nations and the international human rights instruments should speak out loud and strong in protest against what is going on in the camp and should request its closure, demanding the urgent dispatch of an international commission of inquiry to the camp and determined action to put a halt to abduction and internment operations.

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LETTER DATED 29 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 28 October 1999 (see annex), which I have received from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

99-32234 (E) 291099

Annex

Letter dated 28 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1264 (1999) of 15 September 1999, I attach the third periodic report on the operations of the International Force, East Timor (INTERFET) (see appendix). I would appreciate your making the report available to the Security Council.

(Signed) Penny WENSLEY

Appendix

Third periodic report to the United Nations on the operations of the International Force, East Timor

13 to 26 October 1999

I. Introduction

1. In the period since the last report to the Security Council, and a month after the initial deployment of the International Force, East Timor (INTERFET), the multinational force has moved into the Ambino enclave, providing a presence throughout all East Timor regencies. On 22 October, independence figure Xanana Gusmao returned to East Timor. Following a meeting with the Commander of INTERFET, Gusmao visited Falintil Headquarters and conducted a tour of Dili, with INTERFET providing security.

2. Although the western border regions pose a challenge to the maintenance of peace and security, the situation in East Timor has greatly improved over that facing INTERFET upon its arrival. The success of INTERFET in meeting its mandate, together with the Indonesian People's Consultative Assembly agreement to revoke the 1978 decree incorporating East Timor into Indonesia, and the adoption of Security Council resolution 1272 (1999) of 25 October 1999, establishing the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) are important steps in the early deployment of a peacekeeping operation.

3. While militia elements cannot be entirely removed from the equation, their capacity to destabilize East Timor has been reduced to a very low level. Where militias are active INTERFET has demonstrated its ability to respond quickly and deal effectively with these incidents.

II. Cooperation with the Government of Indonesia

4. The most significant development in the period since the Government of Indonesia invited an international force to restore security in East Timor is the agreement of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) to revoke the 1978 decree incorporating East Timor into Indonesia. The remaining Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI) forces are expected to withdraw from East Timor shortly and assets jointly controlled by INTERFET and TNI will become the responsibility of INTERFET. This is a welcome development and an important milestone in the transition to a United Nations transitional administration and peacekeeping operation.

5. Cooperation between INTERFET and TNI continues with a joint investigation of the border incident at Motaain (see S/1999/1072, para. 14). The report will be forwarded to the Secretary-General.

III. Restoration of peace and security

6. INTERFET is represented by forces from Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. As at 25 October, INTERFET had approximately 8,000 personnel deployed in East Timor.

7. Since the second report to the Security Council was tabled, only one significant security incident has occurred involving INTERFET. On 16 October, an INTERFET patrol was attacked by an estimated 20 armed militiamen near the town of Bobonaro, approximately 12 to 15 kilometres from the border with West Timor. INTERFET sustained no casualties in the action, but three militiamen were reported killed, with a further three wounded.

8. On 22 October, INTERFET entered the separate East Timor enclave of Ambino. Weapons consisting of pipe guns and knives were confiscated. Oecussi, the major centre of the enclave, was essentially deserted, with the church remaining as the only significant structure. Three local East Timorese were evacuated by INTERFET to Dili for treatment of wounds caused by militiamen and suspected to be approximately one month old.

9. On 22 October, Xanana Gusmao returned to Dili. His return is an important indicator of the restoration of peace in the territory, and particularly Dili. Mr. Gusmao has discussed the need for reconciliation and has publicly called for militiamen to peacefully reintegrate themselves into East Timorese society. INTERFET is providing his personal security.

10. Dili continues to show signs of stability and security, with more than 70,000 displaced residents returning to a secure environment. The Dili market has reopened. Attention is turning to the rebuilding of civil institutions. The major impediment remains the lack of suitable accommodation as a result of the destruction that followed the announcement of the ballot.

11. Overall, the INTERFET coalition has achieved a very significant proportion of its mandate concerning the restoration of peace and security, with the key indicators being the increased level of security in towns and on roads, and the reduced incidence of violence against INTERFET. While small groups of militiamen remain in East Timor, their ability to physically threaten the local population is largely gone. When security has been threatened, INTERFET has responded quickly and effectively to resolve the incident, and has achieved these results with the minimal use of force. On the basis of progress to date, the expectation is that INTERFET will have achieved its mandate in time for the transition to UNTAET.

IV. Protection of and support for the United Nations Mission in East Timor

12. The progress made by INTERFET on the restoration of peace and security means that UNAMET activities are now unhindered by the security concerns. With the adoption of Security Council resolution 1272 (1999), INTERFET will extend

its support to members of UNTAET. INTERFET welcomes the decision on the UNTAET deployment, recognizing the urgency of restoring the broader aspects of civil administration, absent since violence first erupted early in September.

V. Facilitation of humanitarian assistance operations

13. The ability to distribute humanitarian assistance safely continues to increase with the growing level of general security throughout the territory, and the pace of security restoration has outstripped the pace of aid distribution in some cases. Humanitarian relief efforts are ongoing in most parts of East Timor, including the border regions in the west. Humanitarian assistance in the Ambino enclave will have commenced by the time the present report is presented to the Security Council.

14. The major humanitarian challenges facing the relief effort in East Timor at present are the return of large numbers of displaced persons (from both internal areas and West Timor) and the commencement of the wet season.

15. INTERFET continues to open western border areas for humanitarian aid convoys distributing food and non-food aid. These western border regions remain relatively hazardous for returnees from West Timor, although TNI appears to be providing protection for some of these convoys. Aid agencies are providing regular assessments of urgent humanitarian needs, infrastructure and the logistics situation in most districts of East Timor. To date, over 14,000 displaced persons are estimated to have returned to East Timor by sea, land and air, including the arrival of over 3,000 persons in Dili and Baucau by sea and air on 25 October. More than 100,000 East Timorese are expected to re-enter the territory over the coming months.

16. The onset of the wet season will impose additional burdens on the people of East Timor and the various aid organizations. Of concern is the need to provide sufficient shelter. Transport on already poor roads will become more difficult.

VI. Observations

17. As East Timor becomes more secure and the population returns, the lack of many aspects of civil administration becomes more apparent. There is growing demand for increased civil services as well as the reconstruction and reconciliation of society. As the United Nations commanded peacekeeping operation is integral to the transitional authority, the commencement of detailed planning and early liaison between the commander of the peacekeeping operation and the Commander of INTERFET would assist the transition greatly.

VII. Outlook

18. The adoption of Security Council resolution 1272 (1999), authorizing the presence of UNTAET in East Timor, is welcome. INTERFET has an established presence throughout East Timor, including the Ambino enclave. The security situation has improved dramatically since 20 September, the date of the initial

INTERFET deployment. Militia challenges to the mandate of INTERFET are isolated and are dealt with quickly. The continuing build-up of INTERFET forces will further improve the overall security situation. The Commander of INTERFET is confident that the conditions are approaching a time when it would be appropriate to hand over INTERFET to the UNTAET military component.

19. Consequently, INTERFET would welcome the early deployment of the United Nations peacekeeping operation Force Commander and his key staff in order to coordinate planning between the United Nations peacekeeping operation and INTERFET. The early deployment of the UNTAET peacekeeping operation's headquarters would facilitate a transfer of forces and responsibilities.

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LETTER DATED 29 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing to lodge a strong protest over the intention of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, to carry out a population registration in that Serbian province.

It is only too obvious that the basic conditions for such an important undertaking are non-existent: the terror of Albanian separatists continues unabated and the violence against, and the ethnic cleansing of, Serbs, Montenegrins, Roma and other non-Albanians has not been stopped in a situation when over 250,000 of them have already been driven out of Kosovo and Metohija; over 200,000 foreign nationals have entered the Serbian province illegally due to inadequate border protection by the international security force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK); and many major cities and towns, such as Pristina and Pec, have been almost completely ethnically cleansed. These conditions do not warrant a fair registration and would amount to a recognition of the fait accompli and further encouragement of the separatism, violence and terrorism of Albanian extremists.

In drawing this to your attention, I would like to inform you that the competent authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia are in possession of the correct data prior to the arrival of UNMIK and are in a position to carry out a regular registration once the conditions for it have been created. Also, it is within the exclusive competency of these authorities to issue personal identification documents, as it is the prerogative of sovereignty of every State.

The UNMIK plans to carry out a population registration in Kosovo and Metohija are in direct contravention of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and, as such, are rejected, condemned and will never be accepted by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

99-32240 (E) 011199

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.